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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## MKs slam Ben-Yair for prosecuting negligent soldier

EVELYN GORDON

THE Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday attacked Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's decision to try an officer for negligence in the death of Haim Bar-Natan during a 1992 IDF operation.

Bar-Natan was killed in Lebanon by a member of his own unit, after his commander changed the unit's route during a night operation without informing all the members. One of Bar-Natan's comrades, seeing a strange figure in the dark where he thought no member of his own unit was supposed to be, opened fire, killing Bar-Natan.

Judge Advocate-General Ilan Schiffrin decided not to press charges against the officer, but Ben-Yair recently overturned this decision, ordering him indicted for negligence in a military court.

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) was the only MK present who defended Ben-Yair's decision, with several MKs expressing strong opposition. "The attorney-general dealt with a matter here in which his lack of professional understanding was evident," said Hagai Merom (Labor).

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who addressed the committee on the general issue of whether officers should be tried for negligence during an operation, said a group of reserve battalion commanders were planning to petition the High Court of Justice against the decision to indict Bar-Natan's commander.

Shahak declined to say more about the Bar-Natan case, but said that in general he opposed trying officers for negligence during an operation.

"I'm not trying to claim there is no situation in which the intervention of the legal system would be justified," said Shahak. "But I object to imposing criminal responsibility in an actual operation [as opposed to an exercise], unless the act was committed willfully or was outside the bounds of what is reasonable."

"It must be remembered that if there is operational negligence, it was committed under pressure and under very difficult circumstances," he added. "Therefore, we must be careful to distinguish between errors in judgment and actual negligence."

Shahak said he feared that if officers feared being tried if anything went wrong, they would not be willing to take risks. "When one conducts an operation, there are mistakes, and even incidents of negligence," he said. "I know that things like this happen every night. Does this mean we shouldn't conduct operations?"

Shahak noted that until the Bar-Natan case, no officer had ever been tried for negligence during an operation. "I don't know what has happened to us today," he said. "Were we wrong all those years?"

## Paris metro bomb kills 4, wounds 60

PARIS - A bomb explosion ripped through a subway train in the heart of Paris during rush hour yesterday, killing at least four people and injuring about 60, the prime minister said.

Visibly shaken, Prime Minister Alain Juppé went to the scene and told reporters: "There are very strong suspicions that it was a terrorist attack."

President Jacques Chirac, who took office in May, went to the scene to console the wounded. He made no public comment.

Witnesses said the bomb exploded in one carriage of the southbound RER suburban rapid transit system at the Saint-Michel station beside Notre-Dame cathedral at 5:30 p.m.

"It was a scene of horror," one witness aboard the train said. (Agencies)

Full story, Page 4



The elderly father of 65-year-old Rahel Tamari cries out as her body is brought to her grave at the Yarkon Cemetery yesterday, a day after she died in the Ramat Gan bus bombing while on her way to visit her parents. (Alois Ron/Israel Sun)

## Serb troops enter Zepa, civilians flee

News agencies  
SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN Serb forces rolled into the town of Zepa yesterday after more than a week of fighting in the United Nations "safe area," and women and children have fled into surrounding woods, the UN said.

"UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] confirms from the ground in Zepa that Bosnian government army troops no longer appear to be in the town," UN spokesman Lieut.-Col. Chris Vernon said in Sarajevo.

"Bosnian Serb soldiers are moving through Zepa with impunity," he said. "The Bosnian government army, although confirming its soldiers had abandoned the town, said its troops were taking up positions in the nearby hills. Bosnian state radio reported."

"A large part of the free territory of Zepa has been preserved. The fighters and people of Zepa are continuing their resistance," the army said.

About 17,000 Bosnian Muslims were believed to have been

trapped in the town and its surrounding villages.

Neighboring Srebrenica fell to Serb forces two weeks ago, leaving Gorazde as the last Bosnian-held "safe area" in the east.

The United States and allied Western governments warned the Bosnian Serbs last week that any attempt to move on Gorazde would be met with heavy NATO air strikes.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev returned to Moscow yesterday after talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade. He expressed his opposition to Western calls for air strikes, exposing again the policy differences among the major powers towards the 39-month war.

President Clinton, faced with likely defeat, yesterday sent Senate leaders his arguments

against lifting the UN arms embargo, calling it "a futile effort to find an easy fix" in the Balkans.

"It will provide our allies a rationale for doing less, not more," Clinton said in a letter to Congress. "It will provide the pretext for absolving themselves of responsibility in Bosnia, rather than assuming a stronger role" at this critical moment.

NATO officials were meeting in Brussels yesterday to work out how to put tough words into action and debated the issue of speeding up the procedure for calling allied air strikes.

Their deliberations came too late for Zepa.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters that women and children had fled Zepa to hide in surrounding woods but insisted government troops in the town had not surrendered their weapons. He called for UN intervention to evacuate civilians.

## Israel-Jordan relief effort unloads tons of supplies for Bosnia in Split

RAINE MARCUS  
SPLIT, Croatia

minutes of each other at a heavily guarded Split airport in the sweltering July sun. After a ceremony in which both Hassan and Sarid spoke on behalf of both peoples, the IDF and Jordanian soldiers began unloading the supplies.

The IAF plane brought 22 tons of relief supplies, clothing, blankets, medical equipment and drugs. IDF Medical Corps deputy surgeon-general Col. Giora told journalists, "We are bringing a large cargo of goodwill. Since we have no contact with the medical team in Bosnia, we did not know which supplies were most urgent, so we brought what we deemed would be essential and of use."

Sarid thanked Hassan for his initiative "in this unique, unprecedented operation." In return, Hassan thanked the Israeli delegation for its cooperation, "and for giving substance to this operation of peace." He added: "We can now look back to just a year ago, to the peace agreement made between Jordan and Israel. We should now deliver our message of peace to the Bosnians and the Croats."

The planes arrived within 10

The medical supplies included four respirators, drugs, infusions and syringes, weighing nine tons. "We also included 100 tents, each able to house eight people."

Some three tons of civilian clothing and blankets, mostly donated by private companies, were also among the supplies sent.

Once the unloading began, Hassan, Sarid and the accompanying journalists flew in Croatian air force helicopters to Mostar to visit a unit of Jordanian soldiers stationed there with the United Nations peacekeeping force.

At a meeting with the Croatian and Bosnian foreign ministers in this divided and partially destroyed city, Sarid and Hassan talked of the benefits of peace. "Destroyed bridges can be reconstructed," said Sarid. "Jordan and Israel have rebuilt their bridges."

**ISAAC FARIN**  
Mazal Tov on your Bar Mitzva.  
The Farin, Nepomechie, Young and Stein families

## Weizman draws coalition criticism for 'political statements'

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman, saying he was determined not to be a "rubber stamp" president, spent most of his day yesterday in meetings with different factions to discuss the political situation.

This led an angry Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zivili and other coalition members to criticize Weizman for what they regarded as his involvement in the political debate and his "semi-political" statements, which they said made him president of "only part of the nation."

After the Ramat Gan bus attack, Weizman called for halting the peace talks and "reconsidering the situation."

Weizman's discussions covered the political spectrum, from meetings with representatives of Tsomet and settlers in the morning to Labor and Meretz faction members in the evening.

During a visit to Ma'aleh Adumim, Weizman said he believes final status talks with the Palestinians should begin now. (See story, Page 2).

Weizman was silent about his evening meeting with members of the Labor and Meretz factions in the Knesset. The meeting came at the request of the coalition MKs, who said they wanted to relate to Weizman's statements on Monday when he indicated dissatisfaction with the peace negotiations.

But Weizman reportedly told the MKs he had no intention of being a "rubber stamp," and would continue to express his understanding of public sentiment. He stressed that large segments of Israeli society were opposed to returning the territories and fearful of what this could lead to.

Weizman also reportedly

BATSHEVA TSUR  
and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

urged the government to take a firmer stand on the peace negotiations, pointing particularly to Syrian President Hafez Assad. The time has come, Weizman reportedly said, for Assad to meet Israeli political leaders rather than to leave the negotiations to the generals.

"I have no doubt that the president knows his position, and that his [future] remarks will reflect his opinions, but with greater restraint," Labor faction leader Ra'anana Cohen said after emerging from the meeting. He added that the Labor faction was planning to hold a longer meeting with the president, and stressed that Weizman was interested in working towards unity in the country.

Dalia Itzik (Labor) said she felt the president had overstepped the mark by criticizing the government's policy after the bus attack. "This is the time to say things that will get people together," she said.

"We understood that the president does not have any bones to pick about the peace process," Ran Cohen of Meretz said later. "The disagreement is on shades rather than on policy. He is not interested in stopping the process."

Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said both sides had ended the meeting with a better understanding of each other's positions. Earlier in the day, the president met for more than an hour with members of the Tsomet faction. Emerging from Beit Hanassi, Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan said they had discussed ways of uniting the nation. He described the president's reaction as sympathetic.

Asked whether the faction had

proposed the establishment of a national unity government, Eitan said the matter had not been raised.

Zivili, who objected to his faction's meeting with Weizman, said such meetings "drag the president, and the presidency as an institution, to the middle of the political debate" and as such do not contribute to the unity of the nation. Zivili noted that he respected and admired Weizman, saying he was one of Israel's best presidents, who wants to unite the people.

"But is this a real or a false unity?" Zivili asked. "Is there a common basis between the government and what it represents, and those who call to disobey military orders, who dance on the blood of the victims of terrorist attacks, and who call the chief of general staff, who gave 35 years of his life to the state's security, a traitor?"

The moment the president takes a stand, Zivili said, the presidency becomes involved in the political debate dividing the nation. As a president and in order to preserve his status, he must remain above these arguments, he said.

However, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said "the president and presidency must be respected," and "if the president invites people to meetings they must come."

"I fear nothing from what the president might say. I am convinced that he wants to contribute to the unity of the nation and the peace process. I know Weizman's opinions concerning the peace process, the recognition of the PLO and the making of peace with Syria. In principle, he wants the same as what the majority of the public wants. If he invites me, I shall be pleased to attend any meeting."

## Boy run over by truck as father watches

AMIR ROZENBLIT and Itim

A TODDLER and a four-year-old girl were among four persons killed in road accidents since Monday.

Two-year-old Tal Juahish was run over by a truck outside Beer-sheva yesterday as his father watched in horror. Juahish was sitting alone in the cabin of his father's truck, while his father spoke with the driver of another truck parked behind.

Just as his father was returning to the truck, the boy fell out the driver's window into the path of the second truck, which was pulling out onto the road. He was killed instantly. Police are investigating.

Four-year-old Perah Gershom of Beit She'an was struck by a car when she crossed the road from between two parked cars yesterday afternoon and died of her injuries later. The driver was arrested and his license was suspended for 90 days.

One man was killed and two

illegally, while the driver was from Nazareth.

On Monday, Sawish Tzufahi, 50, of Jerusalem was killed when his car swerved off the road near Ein Gedi and plunged 150 meters. (Itim)

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our greatly beloved and honored father, grandfather and great-grandfather

**NUSSEN LEHMAN** נוסן

Montreal - Jerusalem

The funeral took place yesterday, Tuesday, July 25, 1995 (27 Tammuz 5755), at the Mount of Olives Cemetery.

Jack Lehman

Susie and Jack Palevsky

Melach and Elaine Lehman

Miriam and Aaron Singer

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Shiva at the home of the deceased: 49 Arzel Habira, Apt. 28, Jerusalem.

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## Eastern Jerusalem has over 300 illegally built homes

BETWEEN 300 and 400 homes have been illegally built by Jerusalem Arabs in areas considered top priority for demolition, city engineer Uri Ben-Asher revealed yesterday.

Ben-Asher, responding to questions by Likud MKs touring eastern Jerusalem with Mayor Ehud Olmert, gave no indication whether the city would indeed attempt to demolish the homes, many of which are occupied.

The municipality is presently at odds with the government over what action to take against illegal construction in eastern Jerusalem. The Interior Ministry last

**BILL HUTMAN**

month halted all demolitions in order to reassess the matter. The illegally built homes referred to by Ben-Asher are in areas zoned "green," or off limits to any development.

The Likud MKs, led by party leader Binyamin Netanyahu, blasted the government for not taking a strong stand against recent inroads by the PA in Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem will be the major political battlefield in the upcoming election," said MK Yitzhak Shami.

MK Moshe Katsav said party

members on the Knesset Finance Committee would work to push for additional funding for Jerusalem. Olmert charged that the government had not kept its promises for special funding for the city.

Netanyahu meanwhile, speaking about the possibility of a national unity government being formed, told reporters, "We are not interested in portfolios... but in unifying the nation around the correct policy."

"I am calling on the prime minister to adopt a security policy that we can all stand behind - that returns security to the nation."

## Three fluoridation plants inaugurated for Haifa area

JUDY SIEGEL and DAVID RUDGE

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh yesterday dedicated three new fluoridation plants in the Haifa area, raising to 42 percent the percentage of Israelis supplied with fluoridated drinking water. Fluoridation is credited with reducing the amount of dental caries by 60 percent.

The new facilities, at Usha, Afek and Wadi Risha, are now supplying fluoridated water to 500,000 residents of Haifa, Kiryat Ata, Kiryat Bialik, Kiryat Yam, Kiryat Motzkin and Shfar'am, as well as neighboring kibbutzim and moshavim. The NIS 2 million cost was shared by the ministry, the local authorities, and a European donor.

The planning was carried out by Tahal Consulting Engineers Ltd. and the construction work itself by Mekorot, which will also be responsible for the running and maintenance of the plants.

Fluoridation facilities in the country's three largest cities, Kiryat Shmona, Kfar Haverdim and Kadima cover 37% of the population. An additional 5% - mostly in the Negev and Arava - drink water that contains natural fluoride. Israel is the second most fluoridated country in the European region of the WHO, and close to the rate in the US. The

annual cost of fluoridation for an average Israeli family is \$1.

Dr. Moshe Kelman, director of dental services for the ministry, said he expects 88% of the population will have a fluoridated water supply by the year 2000, even though its provision is not compulsory by law. The next fluoridation plants will be built in the Galilee.

Kelman said even those who live in fluoridated areas may safely use fluoride toothpastes and rinses. However, they should consult their dentists before using fluoride tablets and drops meant for children. A surplus of fluoride can cause fluorosis, the darkening of tooth enamel.

Fluoride, said Kelman, has been proven to strengthen the tooth enamel and make it more resistant to acids that thrive on bacteria in the mouth that feed on sugars.

According to a recent study, 51% of five-year-olds who live in fluoridated areas are free of cavities, compared to only 31% in areas without fluoridated water. Among 12-year-olds, 21% are cavity free in fluoridated areas, compared to just 12% in non-fluoridated areas.

## Bezeq to link schools to computer networks

JUDY SIEGEL

TEN schools and teachers' seminars will be hooked up by Bezeq to computer networks and data bases in an experiment due to begin during the coming school year.

Bezeq announced yesterday that the link will be via ISDN (integrated services digital network) fiber optic cables. This will turn computer classes in the schools and seminars into communications-via-computer classes.

Education Ministry Director-General Dr. Shimon Shoshani met yesterday with Bezeq Director-General Yitzhak Kaul to discuss the project. The educational institutions that will be selected to participate will include intermediate schools in the Jewish and Arab sectors in cities, towns and outlying areas.

Last week, Bezeq officials met with representatives of top

computer communications companies, including Microsoft Israel, Binat, Motorola, NetVision and TV-Net. Kaul noted that all agreed computer communications was vital to the educational system. The forum of representatives offered their services to the Education Ministry for the promotion of a national project.

Kaul will coordinate the project until a permanent director is named by Bezeq.



Jewish children from Kiev, Gomel, and Bryansk arrive yesterday on Chabad Children of Chernobyl's first triple-republic airlift from areas stricken by the nuclear disaster nine years ago. This 19th flight brings to 1,240 the number of children taken out of the former Soviet Union. The voluntary organization, funded by Chabad, recently received the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs' award for outstanding service. The children initially stay at Kfar Chabad, where they recover from illness, study, and wait for their parents, who are committed eventually to settle here. The three areas from which the children originate have reported an "explosion" in childhood cancer rates. (Text: Judy Siegel)

## Liba'i: Jonathan Pollard's citizenship request was the first thing I gave Barak

EVELYN GORDON

JONATHAN Pollard's request for Israeli citizenship was the "first thing" Justice Minister David Liba'i gave to incoming Interior Minister Ehud Barak when he handed over the ministry, Liba'i told a conference of MKs yesterday.

Liba'i said he received the application shortly before Barak took over last week.

The conference was organized by Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet) in support of a bill he is submitting to grant Pollard citizenship. Ze'evi said he is in the process of collecting signatures on the bill, since he wants it to have as large a sponsorship as possible.

Pollard's wife, Esther Zeitz-Pollard, told the conference that she fully supported the bill, as she was the one who submitted Pollard's application to the Interior Ministry, at his request.

Zeitz-Pollard said she is making Pollard's plea for citizenship public because he has been trying

through back channels to acquire citizenship for the past 10 years, without success.

She contrasted this with what was done for Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun, who was given citizenship without even asking in 1972, 16 years before he finally made it to Israel.

"Perhaps someone fears that this would hurt [Pollard]," Ze'evi said. "But in my opinion, the one who should be the judge of whether it would hurt him is Jonathan Pollard himself."

"Jonathan's own words are: 'How can you hurt a person who is already in the worst possible situation?'" Zeitz-Pollard added. "As a loyal American citizen, Jonathan sought justice via the due process of American law, and it failed him every step of the way. Now, having no other recourse, he is calling on the Israeli government to help him."

"Israeli citizenship for Jonathan Pollard at this time is critical," she continued. "It will lend legal strength to the moral basis on which Israel has sought his release for the past 10 years."

Zeitz-Pollard stressed the unfairness of the life sentence given Pollard, noting that the longest sentence ever meted out to anyone else charged with giving information to an ally was 10 years - and the law was changed after Pollard was sentenced to make this the legal maximum as well. The longest anyone else ever served for this crime was eight years, while Pollard has already been in prison for 10.

Pollard, she noted, was never charged with harming American interests.

Pollard is due to go before a parole board in 36 days, and Zeitz-Pollard said she already has reliable information that the

board plans to postpone any decision for another 15 years. Israeli citizenship, she said, will at least send a message to US authorities that Israel stands behind Pollard. It will also entitle him to the support of Israeli officials in the US, she noted.

Zeitz-Pollard said that many of the people who initially pressed for Pollard's life sentence have repented: Former secretary of defense Caspar Weinberger, for instance, told *The New York Times* that it is time to let Pollard go.

Moreover, she said, the discovery that Aldrich Ames, and not Pollard, was responsible for information getting to the Soviet Union has not moved the establishment's position at all.

"It's made the CIA and the FBI more stubborn, because they don't want to let go of their scapegoat," she said. "To this day, they're still putting out disinformation about Jonathan."

## 'Post' columnist Martha Meisels dies at 57

HER colleagues at *The Jerusalem Post* and a faithful following of readers were shocked by the sudden death yesterday of consumer affairs columnist Martha Meisels. She was 57.

Born Martha Miller in Helena, Arkansas, she grew up in Gary, Indiana, where her father was a Reform rabbi at Temple Israel. She attended Radcliffe College, from where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

While visiting Israel in the early 1960s, she worked as a translator at the Eichmann trial, and briefly at the *Post*. She then returned to the US and wrote to then editor-in-chief Ted Lurie to ask if he could give her a permanent position at the paper, because she wanted to immigrate.

Lurie wrote back that there were no jobs available. Undeterred, she thanked him for his frankness, came back to Israel, and started working at the *Post* in 1963.

It was at the *Post* that she met her husband, Andrew Meisels, now an author and veteran newsman working for American media outlets. Their middle daughter, Ruthie, followed her parents into journalism, starting at the *Post's* Tel Aviv local paper, *City Lights*, then moving to the foreign desk of *Ha'aretz*. Their two other daughters, Tamar and Judy, are law students.

In 1968, Meisels started to write her column, "Marketing with Martha," which began to appear weekly in 1972. It was the first regular consumer column in any Israeli paper and, over the years, it earned her several awards.

Maybe because she was a rabbi's daughter, or simply because she was a naturally kind-hearted person, Martha had time for every mudnik. She understood the frustrations of transplanted Americans who were looking for appliances like the ones back home, and food items that could be compared to those found on the shelves of American supermarkets. She undertook endless, painstaking research on their behalf, finding products, manufacturers, and services to suit their needs.

She also introduced new immigrants with big



Martha Meisels

dreams and small incomes to a wider public. Newcomers running cottage industries would come to her with their samples, and realizing that they had no budget for advertising, she often gave them their first big push by writing them up in her columns - but only if she was convinced of the quality of their products.

Devoted to her family, she shared their opinions on new foods and other consumer goods with her readers. This enabled her to be absolutely fair to every manufacturer, because it was

rare for the members of her family to be unanimous in their reaction to anything.

She also honored or memorialized members of her family through donations to *Post* funds.

Public relations executives adored her. Unlike many journalists who scorn the gray world of PR, Martha understood they had a job to do and merited the same consideration as she would give to anyone else.

For her colleagues, she was a mine of information. She kept files on everything she ever wrote about, as well as many things she never wrote about, and she could always point someone in the right direction.

Newcomers to *Post* staff, especially singles with no family in Israel, were invited to her home for meals, as were newly widowed or divorced colleagues of long standing. Martha was genuinely concerned about the welfare of others, and made every possible effort to make life easier for them.

That attitude was extended to countless strangers to whom she was just a friendly voice on the phone. They called her at work or at home to ask where they could buy a particular commodity, to inquire whether a certain hotel took checks, to complain about poor service or inferior quality products. And she found time for all of them.

When word spread yesterday that Martha had died, scores of people who had never met her began to call *Post* staffers to express condolences.

Those people who did know her lost a true friend. In a fast-paced world where old-fashioned values fall by the wayside, Martha remained a symbol of the friend-in-need-friend-indeed.

In addition to her husband and daughters, she is survived by her mother, Elsie Miller, and her sister, Susan Levy.

The funeral will be held at 6 p.m. today at Hayarkon Cemetery in Tel Aviv.

Greer Fay Cashman

## Searchers find body of drowned girl in Kinneret

DAVID RUDGE

SEARCHERS yesterday found the body of a teenage girl who disappeared after falling from a rubber dinghy in Lake Kinneret on Sunday.

The body of Orit Ofek, 17, of Kibbutz Eilon, in the Western Galilee, was found by the crew of a boat which had been hired by the kibbutz to help in the search.

The crew discovered the body floating on the water not far from the spot where she had fallen overboard, opposite Dugit beach.

Dozens of police, divers and volunteers had taken part in the searches. The crew of the boat called a police boat to the scene and the body was recovered from the water.

Police believe Ofek was struck on the head when she fell overboard, and drowned. They are investigating whether there was negligence involved in the death.

## 2 hurt as scaffold collapses

Two workers were injured, one seriously, after the scaffold they were standing on at an Ashdod construction site collapsed.

Issam Badarna, 19, of Saknin and Theodor Beinyatov, 35, a foreign worker from Bulgaria, were moving crates of work materials when the scaffold gave way suddenly and they fell from a height of 10 meters.

lit

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mubarak offers condolences

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressed his condolences yesterday to the bereaved families of the Ramat Gan bombing, and sent wishes for a speedy recovery to those injured.

In a cable to President Ezer Weizman, Mubarak also stated that it is important to remain steadfast in the search for peace, and to continue the negotiations in order to prevent such deeds in the future. *Batsheva Tsor*

### Body of American found in Jerusalem

The badly decomposed body of an American tourist was found in the orchards of Kibbutz Ramat Rachel in Jerusalem yesterday, police said.

The man, 29, from Washington, D.C., had not been reported as missing, and had been in the country since December 1994. Police declined to release his name pending notification of his relatives.

The body was found by Arab workers, with the man's personal belongings and sleeping bag alongside him, police said. There were no signs of violence on the body, which was taken to the National Forensics Institute at Abu Kabir. *Bill Hutman*

### 1,000 hike to Wadi Kelt

About 1,000 people went to Wadi Kelt yesterday and took part in a memorial ceremony for the four Israelis who were killed by terrorists there within the last two years: Ohad Bachrach, Ori Shohor, Dror Forer and Eran Behar. Bachrach and Shohor were killed last week, and Forer and Behar were killed there on October 9, 1993.

Prior to the ceremony, hundreds of youths hiked in the area as part of a tour sponsored by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, to show that the murders will not prevent Jews from going to the once-popular nature spot. *Herb Keiron*

### Masked gunman holds up Haifa post office

A masked man armed with a pistol held up staff at a post office branch on Rehov Yaffo in Haifa's downtown quarter yesterday evening and stole NIS 4,000. Police launched widespread searches and roadblocks were set up in the area to capture the robber, who fled on foot. *David Rudge*

## A FEW WORDS IS ALL IT TAKES TO SEND A SMILE BACK HOME.

### SEND A LETTER HOME, SOMEONE IS WAITING.

The Postal Authority is a supermarket of communication: Stamps • Post Cards • Envelopes • Writing Paper • Shipping Cartons • EMS (Express Mail Service abroad) • Fax Service • Western Union Money Transfers • Philatelic Service (Stamps and Albums) • Gifts and more.

ISRAELI POSTAL AUTHORITY

Dear Mom and Dad,  
I'm writing in a hurry, because we're so busy, but I want to say THANKS FOR THIS WONDERFUL TRIP TO ISRAEL. You won't believe how much we've learned in such a short period of time. We've seen some amazing things in Eilat and have some great memories to take home. This place is amazing. So much history, so much beauty. We had a great time. Just let us know when you're back. Love, Susan

Mr. and Mrs. M. Burg  
880 E. 8 Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230  
U.S.A.



## Car bomb kills five in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — A car bomb exploded in a town outside the capital, killing five people and wounding seven, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Several dwellings were damaged in the attack, which took place afternoon in the center of Meftah, 35 km southeast of Algiers, the daily *Liberte* reported.

Further details were not available, and security forces did not immediately confirm the bombing.

Car bombs have become increasingly common since the start of the three-year-old civil war by Moslem radicals fighting against the government to establish an Islamic state.

The crisis started after the army canceled January 1992 legislative elections the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front appeared set to win. The ensuing crackdown led a cycle of violence that has left more than 30,000 dead.

*Liberte* and a second newspaper, *La Tribune*, also reported that a series of homemade bombs planted in buses exploded on the road between the capital and the town of Tizi Ouzou.

The road was damaged in the explosions, requiring drivers to make a long detour and causing delays.

Another explosion targeted but did not damage a bridge east of Tizi Ouzou, the papers said.

## Nigeria's generals review fate of rebels

LAGOS (Reuters) — Nigeria's ruling generals began a meeting yesterday to review sentences passed against 40 people found guilty of plotting a coup against the military government, a senior official said.

The generals will take into account the flood of local and foreign appeals for mercy, the head of state's spokesman said.

The National Defense Council, made up of senior military officials, were gathered at the presidential villa in the capital Abuja under the chairmanship of military ruler General Sani Abacha.

Their decision will go to the governing Provisional Ruling Council, which has the final word on the soldiers and civilians convicted in a secret trial of trying to topple the government in March.

"This administration in its entirety is a very responsible one. If this is the world's opinion, it cannot be ignored," Abacha's chief press secretary, David Attah, told Reuters.

Among those whose fate is in the generals' hands are a former head of state, retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, and his deputy, Major-General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua.



Rescue workers evacuate a wounded woman from the Paris Metro station of Saint Michel yesterday.

(Reuters)

## Four killed, 40 injured in Paris Metro explosion

FOUR people were killed and at least 40 injured when a bomb exploded aboard an underground railway train in central Paris, French Prime Minister Alain Juppe told reporters on the scene.

"It's a carnage down there," a fireman told reporters on emerging from the station.

A spokesman for the Paris fire service said 10 of the wounded were in a serious condition. The blast occurred aboard an RER suburban express train at the Saint-Michel station close to Notre-Dame Cathedral. It ripped through the train during rush hour at 5.30 p.m., setting off a blaze. The RER train was headed south toward Saint-Remy-les-Chevreuse. The line was shut down after the explosion.

Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel Grangier of the Paris fire service told reporters outside the station the explosion in one carriage of the train had started a fire which had been extinguished. Two anti-terrorism investigators were sent to the scene. Justice Ministry officials also said the explosion was probably a bomb, the first to hit central Paris in nearly a decade.

Dozens of emergency vehicles rushed to the

### News agencies

#### PARIS

scene along the Seine River in the tourist-filled Latin Quarter at Saint-Michel.

Police sealed off the area as commuters and tourists poured out of the station, a junction point between the urban Metro underground railway and the RER suburban rapid transit system.

Victims, some with their faces bathed in blood, were brought out of the station, including a motionless woman on a stretcher.

Blue lights flashed as tourists and other onlookers watched the evacuation. City Mayor Jean Tiberi and Transport Minister Bernard Pons were among officials who arrived at the scene.

"I saw six or seven people who were wounded; bleeding from their faces and legs. It was scary," said Jacky Oneir, a security guard at a nearby bookstore. "Tonight I take the bus."

Oneir and others in Place Saint-Michel said they didn't hear the blast, which occurred in a line deep underground.

The explosion set off a blaze inside the train and killed three people, said a fire department

spokesman on condition of anonymity. Thirty people were hurt, some seriously.

Two people were trapped inside the wreckage and firefighters worked to remove them, the spokesman said.

The victims were not immediately identified.

The RER train was headed south toward Saint-Remy-les-Chevreuse. The line was shut down after the blast.

The Réseau Express Regional, or Regional Express Network, is separate from the Paris city subway network, criss-crossing the capital and serving suburbs.

Paris was last hit by a wave of bombings in 1986, in which 13 people were killed and more than 100 injured. The blasts, which targeted department stores and City Hall among other sites, were claimed by an Iranian-backed Lebanese group.

French President Jacques Chirac has taken a high profile in demanding international military action to stop Serb army advances in war-torn Bosnia and has also triggered worldwide protests with his decision last month to resume nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific.

## Sailor protests Chinese missile tests

TAIPEI (AP) — A would-be candidate in Taiwan's first presidential election protested Chinese missile tests by sailing toward the test site yesterday to call for peace.

Hsu Hsia-liang's protest on a fishing boat was among the more unusual displays of anger in Taiwan over the tests, which China has said will last until Friday.

In a cellular phone interview from the boat, Hsu said, "As a world superpower, China should try to resolve disputes by peaceful means, not by military threats."

Hsu is one of two contenders to be the opposition Democratic

Progressive Party's candidate in the elections next March.

Hsu was joined by his party chairman, Shih Ming-teh, who had been a political prisoner for 25 years. Shih sailed another boat flying a banner marked "Non-Violent, Anti-Threat, and Peace."

Meanwhile, China continued to back up its saber-rattling with invective attacking Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui.

For the third straight day, Beijing's official Xinhua News Agency carried a strident editorial that was read aloud on the national nightly news and was to be printed in the Communist Party newspaper *People's Daily* today.

Xinhua accused Lee of using democracy to disguise dictatorial ambitions and of courting pro-independence forces in Taiwan.

## Sinn Fein warns of crisis in peace process

BELFAST (Reuters) — Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said yesterday Britain's insistence on a handover of guerrilla guns threatened to throw the entire Northern Ireland peace process into crisis.

Adams, who heads the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, said multi-party talks were now vital to end a deadlock in the eleven-month-old peace process.

"I think what we have is an impasse. I think we have a potential crisis. I think that everyone knows that," Adams told reporters, dampening hopes that new high-level contacts with the British had galvanized the brittle peace process.

"The British government are

saying that there can be no movement to all-party talks unless there is a decommissioning of IRA weapons," he said. "How do we salvage a peace process unless the British government acknowledges...the democratic need...for inclusive dialogue without preconditions?"

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew outraged the province's intensely pro-British Protestant politicians last week by holding a ground-breaking secret meeting with Adams.

The two-hour session, ending a Mayhew embargo on meeting Adams face-to-face in Northern Ireland, was seen as a major step forward. Both later portrayed it as frank and useful.

## Gunfight erupts in Grozny amid talks

GROZNY (Reuters) — A fierce gunbattle broke out in the center of the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday as peace talks were suspended to allow delegates time to consider a draft military deal drawn up by Moscow.

The shooting began as the Russian and Chechen delegates left talks in a western suburb for a three-day break. It was some of the worst daytime fighting for weeks in Grozny, where a shaky ceasefire has been in place for about one month.

In about 30 minutes of gunfire, Russian armored vehicles fired at the city's bombed-out former presidential palace and automatic gunfire echoed in nearby streets, which were shrouded in black smoke.

Terrified people fled the marketplace in central Grozny, which was reduced to ruins in fighting between Russian troops and rebel fighters headed by separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev earlier this year.

It was not clear who started the fighting, or whether it was linked to the suspension of the negotiations. But it could increase strains on the ceasefire, which is the only tangible achievement so far of the talks which started last month.

Within about half an hour the shooting had stopped and life resumed in the city, where residents are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

Delegates to the talks had already left the building of the Or-

ganization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and were not available for comment on the shooting.

"Both delegations agreed on the need to sign a deal on a series of military issues," Kozh Akhmed Yarikhanov, deputy head of the Chechen negotiating team, told reporters as the talks broke up.

"Now we have a draft agreement proposed by the Russian delegation...We decided there must be a technical break for three days for consultations on this draft because there are issues which were not discussed before," Yarikhanov said.

On June 31, the two sides agreed a military protocol laying the framework for an agreement on military issues.

A senior Russian official said the two sides had reached a military deal on Sunday, including agreement to exchange prisoners and details on disarmament. But the Chechen side later said the deal had not been signed.

Representatives of the rebels, who have been fighting Russian troops for seven months, said the delegates were trying to link the military protocol to a political deal. The Chechens wanted the issues discussed separately.

Apparently indicating the Chechens had got their way, Mikhailov said the delegates would continue to discuss political and economic questions once a military agreement was signed.

## Smith's ex-spouse recalls grief over dead sons

UNION, South Carolina (AP) — Susan Smith's ex-husband broke down in tears yesterday, telling a jury that all his hopes and dreams were lost when his ex-wife confessed to drowning their two young sons.

David Smith showed no emotion during the first hour of his testimony at Ms. Smith's sentencing hearing. But when asked by Prosecutor Tommy Pope how he felt when he saw the sheriff announce Susan Smith's confession on television, David Smith hesitated and started speaking slowly.

"All my hopes, all my dreams, everything that I had planned for the rest of my life, it ended that day. I didn't know what to do. It hurt. Everything I had planned on, my life with the kids, was gone."

Smith has said he favors executing his former wife, who was convicted Saturday of two counts of murder. The jury now must

decide whether she should receive the death penalty.

Smith's testimony about his ex-wife's actions before the boys' deaths is expected to be important in the prosecution's attempt to get all 12 jurors to approve a death sentence.

The couple's divorce became final in May while Ms. Smith, 23, sat in prison awaiting trial. But Smith testified that his marriage had "tumbled apart" before their second child was born.

Smith recalled his frantic drive on Oct. 25 to meet his then-wife at a house near John D. Long Lake, where she first fabricated a tale that a black carjacker abducted 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex. It was a story she repeated to authorities and through nationally televised pleas, to the American public.

Nine days later, on Nov. 3, Ms. Smith confessed to drowning the boys by rolling her car into the lake with them inside.

## Magnum photo agency founder dies at 87

LONDON (AP) — George Rodger, who photographed World War II for Life magazine and was a founder of the Magnum photo agency, has died at age 87.

Rodger died at his home in Smarden, 100 km southeast of London, Magnum Photos Ltd. said yesterday.

As one of the first photographers to enter the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen after it was liberated in April 1945, Rodger found his art in conflict with his humanity.

"I found myself wandering around with my camera, getting the dead into beautiful compositions," he said in a television interview in 1969.

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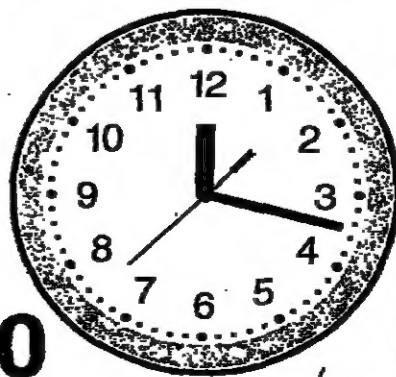
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05/26/95







# Maradona signs with Boca Juniors

Buenos Aires (AP) — Diego Maradona, whose worldwide soccer ban for drug abuse expires in September, signed a 2½-year contract Monday with his old club, Boca Juniors.

Sitting in the club's cafeteria where he tearfully announced last September that he felt "as good as dead" and was quitting after receiving his second 15-month ban, Maradona, 34, said he was putting the past behind him.

"There's no point thinking of the bad times because I want to enjoy this wonderful moment," Maradona said.

He was flanked by former international teammate Claudio Caniggia, who also signed a one-year contract for the club.

Between them, Maradona and Caniggia have been sidelined for 43 months for drug-related offenses in the last four years. Now, they are bidding to resurrect their careers in what Argentine soccer fans already are calling the "dream team."

"To be here with Caniggia is a dream come true," said Maradona, who will be eligible to play again on September 28. "We were both kicked out of soccer together and now we're returning together."

The exact terms of the two contracts were not disclosed, but unconfirmed press reports say Maradona will receive approximately \$8 million in wages and bonuses during his contract. Caniggia reported-

ly will earn \$1m.

Maradona and Caniggia have been training for two weeks with Boca, Argentina's most popular club, which has won only one league title (1991) since Maradona guided them to the 1981 crown.

Just three months ago, Boca president Antonio Alegre asked Maradona not to watch home matches as his presence was putting too much pressure on the team and the manager.

Alegre said he would ask FIFA, the world's governing body of soccer, to ease Maradona's ban to allow him to start the new season in August.

In 1981, Maradona left to play in Europe with Barcelona in Spain, Napoli in Italy and Sevilla in Spain. The stocky midfielder's career then was plagued by controversy.

In 1991 he was banned for 15 months for cocaine abuse while playing for Italy's Napoli. The following year, he was arrested in Buenos Aires for drugs possession.

In February 1994, he fired an air rifle at reporters outside his home, injuring four. The incident occurred the day after he was released by first division side Newell's Old Boys for repeatedly missing training sessions.

He was then kicked out of last year's World Cup finals after testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs after a much-publicized comeback.



WHEN PLAYERS COLLIDE — Florida Marlins leftfielder Jeff Conine (1) and centerfielder Jerry Browne run into each other chasing a fly ball.

## Red-hot Yanks win 6th straight

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees extended their winning streak to six games Monday night, beating Texas 5-4 on Mike Stanley's bases-loaded single to the wall in center with one out in the ninth.

Dion James, who was 4-for-5, opened the ninth with a single off Matt Whiteside (2-3). After singles by Don Mattingly and Bernie Williams, Stanley hit the ball well past a drawn-in outfield for the winning run, giving him an .800 average and 10 RBIs in bases-loaded situations.

Steve Howe (3-2) got the victory with an inning of relief after Texas scored four runs in the

eighth to tie it at 4. Mattingly kept up his offensive surge, going 2-for-2 with a homer and two sacrifice flies and raising his average to .304.

Red Sox 4, Twins 1. Tim Wakefield won his sixth straight start and Rick Aguilera earned his second save against his former team for host Boston.

Wakefield (10-1), signed as a free agent April 27, struck out seven, walked one and allowed seven hits in 7½ innings. He leads the majors with a 1.63 ERA.

Aguilera got his 18th save, including six with Boston. Brad Radke (7-5) had won his previous four starts.

Indians 9, Angels 7. Manny Ramirez doubled home the go-ahead run in the top of the 10th inning for Cleveland.

Albert Belle and Sandy Alomar homered as the Indians improved to 7-0 in extra innings.

In the opener of a three-game series billed as a possible postseason preview, the Indians blew a 6-1 lead against the highest-scoring team in the majors. But Jim Thome greeted

Lee Smith (0-4) with a leadoff double in the 10th and scored when Ramirez grounded a 2-2 pitch down the first-base line. Paul Sorrento followed with an RBI single.

Paul Assemacher (4-2) got one out for the victory. Jose Mesa pitched the 10th for his 27th save.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

Giants 8, Marlins 3. Deion Sanders was upstaged by rookie pitcher Jamie Brewington teammate when both made their debut for visiting San Francisco.

Brewington pitched seven strong innings in his first major-league game.

Sanders, acquired from Cincinnati in a trade Friday, batted leadoff and went 1-for-6. He singled home a run in the seventh.

Greg Coltrane and Charles Johnson homered for the Marlins.

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West Division

Colorado 49 35 .583

Los Angeles 41 43 .506

San Diego 37 47 .463

San Francisco 37 44 .451

## Israeli archers aiming for Indonesian tourney

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A senior official expressed objections yesterday to allowing Israel to send a team to Indonesia next week for the World Outdoor Archery Championships.

The six-day competition, to be opened August 1 by President Suharto, serves as a qualifying round for the 1996 Olympics.

Mirdono, minister at the State Secretariat, said Israel's participation could incite strong protests from the people of this predominantly Moslem nation. Indonesia is a staunch supporter of the Palestinians and does not recognize Israel.

He said he had expressed the objection to Oetoyo Oesman, chairman of Indonesia's archery association and also minister of justice. But he declined to disclose details of his talks with Oesman.

The association announced last week that Israel and Portugal — neither of which has diplomatic relations with Indonesia — would be among 105 countries in the championships.

Referring to archery's world governing body, FITA, Oesman was quoted by the English-language newspaper *Jakarta Post* as saying: "We are holding the championships ... and consequently, we will comply with its rules and regulations."

Indonesia did not want Israel to fly its flag at the championships, march as a team in opening and closing ceremonies or wear a team uniform with the Israeli emblem on it.

If the lone Israeli archer hits a bullseye and wins a medal, Indonesia wanted the fanfare of the FITA to be played rather than the Israeli national anthem.

A 1988 ministerial decree forbids Indonesian athletes to "rectify face or compete" with those from countries having no ties with Indonesia.

Two years ago, the government came under criticism for admitting Israel and South Africa to a World Tourism Organization event on the tourist island of Bali. Jakarta then had not established ties with Johannesburg.

In 1991, Indonesia's tennis association had to make a public apology after allowing Indonesian athletes to play Israelis in a youth tournament in India. (AP, Reuters)

## Archeological Seminars face Manolito Tigers in softball finals

WHEN Archeological Seminars began the 1995 Jerusalem Post Softball League season with a 1-8 record, the team was more concerned about winning a few games than qualifying for post-season play.

After finishing the second half of the regular season with a nine-game winning streak, the club finished in sixth place and achieved both goals.

Arch Sem kept the streak

CHARLES HARRIS

alive with an 18-14 extra inning win versus Shomrat on Sunday and the team has now won 12 consecutive games.

"The truth is the players were not showing up to the games and no one was ever playing the same position," said Jacob Schreiber, who plays for the Archeologists. "We never thought we would make the playoffs. The way the

team is playing now, I am not surprised where we are."

The latest win vaulted Arch Sem into a place they have never been and a chance to win the league title. The Manolito Tigers, winners of the other semifinal game versus Ziontours, also advanced. The two teams will clash Thursday at 8 pm at Kibbutz Gezer. The league champion will be determined in the best-of-three series.

## OJ statue recovered

CANTON (AP) — A bronze bust of OJ Simpson should be back on display soon at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, thanks to two highway maintenance workers.

Mark Freedman and Rodney Rosado found the undamaged bust Monday. It was lying on the side of a highway in Cleveland, about 50 miles north of the Canton hall.

"At first, I thought it was a mannequin head," Freedman said. "But then Rodney yelled, 'You found OJ!'"

The 35-lb, 2-foot-tall bust, worth \$6,000, was stolen from the hall Sunday.

## Hill extends olive branch to Schumacher

FRANKFURT (AP) — Damon Hill is offering to end his feud with Formula One champion Michael Schumacher in a public gesture of peace before the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim this weekend.

Hill, Schumacher's British rival, says the two drivers should ride together in one car in front of Schumacher's home fans.

"Tell Michael about my idea: before the race we sit together in one car during the car parade to show that we are fair sportsmen," the Williams-Renault driver told the German magazine *Bunte*.

"As you know, usually only drivers from the same team sit together. But this act should make a point. I am eager to see if Michael will go along."

The two leading Formula One drivers have been involved in a bitter feud, made worse by the crash at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone 10 days ago when Hill rammed into Schumacher's Benetton-Renault, forcing both drivers out of the race.

Schumacher has appealed to his fans to treat Hill fairly, saying he had been given a warm reception in Britain.

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## Ramon: Labor people interested in new party I might set up

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon said yesterday that prominent Labor Party figures "who cannot find their rightful place" in the party have expressed interest in a new party he might form for next year's national elections.

Speaking at a meeting with *The Jerusalem Post's* editors and senior staff, Ramon said "Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is Labor's best candidate for prime minister, and stands the best chances against [Likud leader] Benjamin Netanyahu."

Ramon said he would not run for prime minister in 1996 if Rabin does, but noted he has not yet decided whether to run in the Labor Party primary or form his own party.

As a condition to return to Labor's ranks, Ramon wants Knesset slots reserved for his colleagues MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital.

Ramon also said that by the end of the year, when the Histadrut is scheduled to move its headquarters to Jerusalem, he

will have reduced the number of Histadrut workers to less than a third of what it was—some 4,000—when he entered office last May.

He added that contrary to expectations, no trade union has left the Histadrut and in fact the Histadrut has more active members in Tel Aviv today—some 131,000—than when Kupat Holim members were considered Histadrut members. Tel Aviv's labor council this month reported the collection of NIS 3.6 million in membership fees, compared with NIS 3.2m. in Jerusalem and NIS 2.3m. in Haifa.

In another matter, the head of the Palestinian trade unions, Shaher Sa'ed yesterday denounced the terrorist explosion in Ramat Gan. In a telegram to Ramon, Sa'ed noted that such an attack does not serve the peace process and damages the relations between the two nations. He asked Ramon to convey his condolences to the bereaved families.



Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon, at a meeting with editors of *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

## SLA soldier killed, 3 wounded by Hizbullah bomb

DAVID RUDGE

A SOUTH Lebanese Army soldier was killed and three others were wounded in a roadside bomb attack in the western sector of the security zone yesterday afternoon.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had detonated two explosive devices alongside an SLA patrol and civilian car carrying SLA security men.

The attack occurred while the

troops were on operational duties near Tayr Harfa village, some five kilometers inland from the coast.

Reports from the region said the first device was detonated alongside SLA troops who were on foot, wounding two of them. The second exploded alongside a car, killing the driver and wounding a passenger, according to the

reports.

Two of the wounded were said to have suffered moderate injuries and the third was slightly hurt. They were all given treatment in the field and later evacuated by helicopter to Nahariya Government Hospital.

The reports from Lebanon said IDF and SLA gunners shelled suspected Hizbullah targets north

of the zone in the wake of the bomb attack.

In a separate incident just after Monday midnight, gunmen fired RPGs and light weapons at an SLA outpost in the Ali Tahr hill range region. There were no casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

An anti-Arafat Palestinian group led by former Fatah officer Col. Monir Makkah claimed responsibility for that incident.

## Blaze at office tower in center of Jerusalem

A fire in an underground garage of downtown Jerusalem's tallest office tower trapped 14 people in elevators yesterday, when fire in the building's generator forced a power cut. Only minor damage was reported, and only a few offices were evacuated.

The fire in the Migdal Ha'ir office tower broke out at about 1:30 p.m. in the generator room, located in the parking garage under the building. Four fire trucks and a hook and ladder truck responded to the blaze, and firemen quickly brought the fire under control.

Thick smoke forced the evacu-

ation of offices on the 16th to the 21st floor, and fire fighters quickly rescued those trapped in three of the building's elevators.

The cause of the fire is not known, but appears to have been an electrical short in the generator.

Traffic around the building was snarled when policemen closed off the surrounding streets. A senior Jerusalem fire fighting officer said the building had a poor fire prevention system, with overly narrow emergency stairs, and warned that a more serious disaster could occur if improvements are not made. (Itim)

### Pilot Ronni Shlomi buried

IAF pilot Lt.-Col. Ronni Shlomi, who was killed last Tuesday when two F-16s collided over the sea, was buried yesterday in Kibbutz Mishmar Ha'emek's cemetery. Hundreds of people attended the funeral, including President Ezer Weizman and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger.

An air force colleague said: "We have lost a dear person and good friend. It is hard to believe that a person who did so much and got so far has suddenly left us."

Capt. Yuval Binyamin, Shlomi's navigator on the ill-fated flight will be buried in Jerusalem today.

## Forensic institute worker held for 14-year-old unsolved murder

A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD unsolved murder may have come closer to solution yesterday, when a 31-year-old Abu Kabir Forensic Institute employee was remanded for the crime.

Ronen Ben-Shitrit, 31, who has been working at the institute for 10 years, was arrested on suspicion of murdering Raymond Smadja, who was in his 50s at the time of his murder on August 16, 1981.

The case was reopened by police recently based on new evidence, including a

fingerprint taken from the door of the victim's apartment. Police told the court a new fingerprint identification system had made the arrest possible. An autopsy after the murder revealed the cause of death, but police refused to divulge it.

Police said the suspect failed to provide a reasonable alibi for his fingerprint being on the door, and said information on whether or not the victim was a homosexual was classified.

Ben-Shitrit's lawyer said it was

inconceivable for a person to suddenly be arrested for a 14-year-old murder, considering he has no criminal record outside a few minor charges. He added that Ben-Shitrit, who is married and has two children, had told police that at the time he dealt in used furniture and may have left the print while selling something to the victim. However, the judge, noting that there is no statute of limitations on murder, ordered his remand extended by nine days. (Itim)

## Argentina probes new bombing leads

THOMAS O'DWYER

ARGENTINA'S foreign minister said yesterday that his country is absolutely determined to find those responsible for the bombing of Israeli and Jewish targets in Buenos Aires.

Guido Di Tella told *The Jerusalem Post* that two Lebanese in a group of six men and one woman extradited from Paraguay to Argentina on Monday are "definitely more suspect" than the others. He declined to elaborate.

No one has been convicted for the March 17, 1992, bombing of the Israeli Embassy, in which 29 people died and 225 people were injured, or for the attack a year ago on the Argentine Israel Mutual Aid Association (AMIA), which killed 86 people and injured 120. One man, Carlos Teledin, has been charged with selling the car used to bomb the AMIA building.

Di Tella vehemently rejected criticism of the investigation, such as that made last week by Argentine journalist Sergio Kiernan, in a report for the American Jewish Committee. Kiernan charged a lack of official willpower, police incompetence and antisemitism, and said the embassy bombing investigation was all but closed and "gathering dust in some drawer."

"We consider it of the greatest importance to find those responsible," Di Tella said. "It is important for our credibility, for showing we are serious and for the deterrence of terrorism."

Di Tella said "the worst wrong accusation" was that leveled by some American Jewish leaders who alleged a high-level official cover-up, or even the involvement of some officials in the attack.

The suspects Paraguay extradited were named as Mohammed Hassan Alayan, Johnny Moraes Baalbay, Luis Alberto Nader, Sergio Salem and Fadil Abdul Karim—all of Lebanese extraction—and Brazilians Roberto Ribeiro Ruiz and Valdirine Vieira.

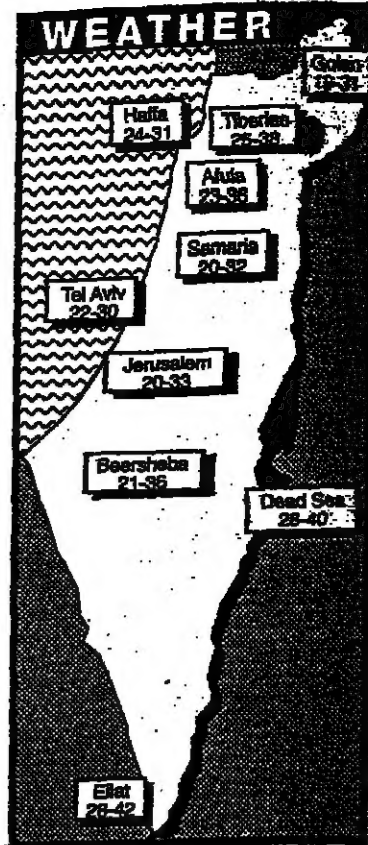
They were questioned yesterday about an arms cache found in 1994 on an island near Buenos Aires belonging to Argentine neo-Nazi Alejandro Sucksdorff, a former military intelligence officer. Sucksdorff was arrested on Paraná Island, 50 km north of Buenos Aires, and is under arrest.

The suspects are being held at Campo de Mayo army base on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. Judge Roberto Marquiech said they will be questioned with Sucksdorff about allegations they received paramilitary training on his island to carry out the embassy attack.

Arturo Galeano, the Paraguayan lawyer representing three of the extradited suspects, said the group is "absolutely innocent" and called their arrest "a political affair." His clients are "scapegoats" for a government keen to show some activity on the affair, Galeano said.

Paraguayan intelligence officers say the group has links to Hizbullah, and at least three of those extradited may be connected with the embassy bombing.

Paraguayan intelligence officials believe at least three of those extradited are linked to the embassy bombing. The seven were arrested in January, and held on charges of drug-trafficking and arms possession in a remote Paraguayan border town long believed by diplomats to be a hideout for Middle Eastern outlaws.



### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WIND
	C	F	MPH	KPH
Amsterdam	13	55	20	32
Berlin	14	57	20	32
Bombay	24	75	20	32
Buenos Aires	24	75	20	32
Calcutta	24	75	20	32
Chennai	24	75	20	32
Cairo	24	75	20	32
Delhi	24	75	20	32
Hong Kong	24	75	20	32
London	14	57	20	32
Los Angeles	14	57	20	32
Madrid	14	57	20	32
Moscow	14	57	20	32
New York	14	57	20	32
Paris	14	57	20	32
Rangoon	24	75	20	32
Seoul	14	57	20	32
Tokyo	14	57	20	32
Yokohama	14	57	20	32

## Knesset panel decides not to ask for another probe of Tze'elim

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset State Control Committee yesterday voted against asking State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to prepare a special report on the 1992 Tze'elim training accident, deciding instead to leave the issue to her discretion.

However, committee chairman David Magen (Likud) said the committee would reconsider its stand against having civilian investigations of army accidents, which it presented to the plenum only a few weeks ago. Several MKs, ranging from Labor faction chairman Raanan Cohen to Esther Salomon (Yisrael Ba'Aliyah), supported this idea.

Ben-Porat told the committee she had already begun a preliminary investigation of the issue, and would decide based on her findings whether to prepare a regular or a special report.

"This is a prime example of an issue that it is worth writing a report about—if, of course, there is enough merit to support a report," she said.

Ben-Porat stressed that while she would consider all the various MKs' suggestions as to what aspects of the affair she should look into, the final decision would be hers. However, she said, she would not shy away from the issue of the different testimony given by the two different committees investigating the accident if that appeared necessary.

"The authority to clarify different versions [of events] and to determine the facts... is inherent [in the comptroller's job]," she said. "From this point of view, there is no difference between a report and an opinion [such as she prepared on the Shahal-Terner affair, for instance]."

Almost all the MKs supported letting the comptroller investigate at her own discretion. However, Magen stressed that the issue "was not finished, and is still on the committee's agenda."

Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the committee's military affairs subcommittee, presented a series of recommendations on what aspects of the affair Ben-Porat should look into. These included uncertainties as to the chain of command during the exercise; suspicions that senior officers—including former chief of general staff Ehud Barak and OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine—had given contradictory testimony to the two bodies that investigated the accident; and the manner in which information was given to the bereaved families.

However, Landau said, he had heard nothing to indicate that an investigation was needed into how the wounded were treated by those present at the site.

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